areas. Each of these Parameters operates independently from the other. The five Parameters are: Privacy, Screening, Input (Read/Write), User ID, and Approvals.

On page 17 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 12 and ending on the line numbered 24 with the following paragraph:

Three different groups can use the application--content leaders, users, and clients. Content leaders are in charge of certain areas of the application. They have "Inclusive Membership"--they can go anywhere except those areas that are password protected. Users are not in charge of any areas, but they can also go anywhere except where password protected. Clients have "Exclusive Membership"--they can only enter those areas where they have been explicitly assigned. For example, a group outside the core of the community, such as clients or vendors of an organization, could have access only to a section of the application that dealt with issues relating to external suppliers, but still subject to the same inherited parameters as leaders and users.

On page 18 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 16 and ending on page 19 on the line numbered 3 with the following . paragraph:

Ideas allow rating and group feedback on the validity of an emerging concept. Questions create a forum for asking questions and capturing solutions community-wide. Events provide real-time RSVP's, pre-meeting documents and discussion, plus information on events. Reviews record agreement or non-agreement by members and their responses to proposed courses of action. Surveys allow participants to post preferences and opinions using a multiple choice or ranking format. Newsletters would allow participants to post information on an informal basis, make requests for information, and share updates on items. Finally, Action Items create a forum for the follow-up and execution of

decisions produced by the use of the previous six Item types mentioned above.

On page 23 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 13 and ending on the line numbered 19 with the following paragraph:

The Alert Others option can also be sent out immediately through messaging or communication. Users can send the contents of their posting to others whenever they: respond to any particular Item; or Post a new Item. The actions described above that are ways to send content outside of the application to recipients from within the application are referred to as Communication Integration Out.

On page 32 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 22 and ending on page 33 on the line numbered 12 with the following paragraph:

Step 308 performs verification, authentication, and authorization of the communication input through an Authorization Interface Module. The Authorization Interface Module interprets a name or password or other data received with the communication and verifies it, authenticates the user, and determines the authority or access level the user has and the rights the user has to the application and authorizes access. If the user is not authorized, the user is notified by the Authorization Interface Module that the user is not authorized to access the application along with a reason (expired password, incorrect password, etc.). If a distributed application platform architecture (FIG. 2) is being utilized instead of a centralized application platform architecture (FIG. 1), then step 309 calls the Inherited Parameters Synchronization Module of FIG. 12 and step 311 calls the Content Synchronization Module of FIG. 13 (both discussed below).

On page 42 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 11 and ending on the line numbered 25 with the following paragraph:

A7

If step 602 determines that the input is related to a rapid feedback evaluation, then step 634 (FIG. 6B) determines if the input is an initial rapid feedback evaluation or a response to an existing rapid feedback evaluation. A rapid feedback evaluation allows the initiator to customize the manner and format of responses the evaluation will garner from other users. It provides a way for a user to gather feedback on the database itself in addition to feedback on one item. For example, the initiator of the rapid feedback evaluation may put forth an Idea, a Heading, or a group of questions, and compose five multiple choice answers for users to pick from for their response. Or, an existing Item may have been rated by several users based on one criteria, and now the initiator wants to gather input from these responders based on a different criteria.

On page 43 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 1 and ending on page on the line numbered 15 with the following paragraph:

A8

If step 634 determines that the input is related to an initial rapid feedback evaluation, then in step 636 an Initial Use Definition Module, which receives the output of the Thread Synchronization Module of FIG. 8 (discussed below), determines if the input use is any of the Item types, group of Items, Heading, Category, or Topic. In step 638 the Initial Content and Format Interface allows the user to input the content and input the type of response choices the user wants for the rapid feedback evaluation, which is stored in the database. Depending upon the specific hardware and software implementation of the invention, the user input may be via a keyboard from a client device, voice input, PDA input, etc. The description for steps 640, 642, 644, 646, and 648 is the same as that for corresponding steps 608, 610, 612, 614, and 618 of FIG. 6A.

On page 75 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 9 and ending on the line numbered 23 with the following paragraph:

A9

Referring again to FIG. 33, Parameters Settings 3342 shows the parameters that have been set for the current Topic. Each Topic has five Input or Access Parameters that are independent of each other. Privacy Parameter 3344 shows whether any user can enter that Topic area or whether a password is required. Screening Parameter 3346 indicates if a Content Leader must screen new Items before they go into the database. Input (Read/Write) Parameter 3348 determines whether users can submit Items, rate, respond or simply read the content for that Topic. User ID Parameter 3350 lets the any Leader in the responsibility hierarchy turn on or off all identification for users for that Topic area (and replace with Aliases, for example). Approvals Parameter 3352 allows any Leader in the responsibility hierarchy to give a "Go or No Go" to an Idea for implementation.

On page 77 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 15 and ending on the line numbered 21 with the following paragraph:

A10

Clicking on Drop Down List 5404 displays a list of additional parameters: Screen Ideas/Questions, Input (Read/Write) Capabilities, Use of User ID, and Go/NO-Go Approval of Ideas (not shown). Clicking on any one of the parameters will return a page similar to Privacy Definitions Page 5400 providing the user with information on each parameter (not shown).

On page 78 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 14 and ending on the line numbered 21 with the following paragraph:

A11
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Regarding Input (Read/Write) Capabilities, the Web Master assigns the minimum and maximum levels of Input (Read/Write) Capabilities to each of the Heading Leaders for each of the Heading Areas. Heading Leaders can impose additional restrictions on Category and Topic Leaders, and Category

Leaders can impose additional restrictions on Topic Leaders. Topic Leaders can make available whatever levels have not been disallowed by Category, Heading, and Web Master Leaders.

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On page 79 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 3 and ending on the line numbered 7 with the following paragraph:

A12

Level 1 allows the user to comment and rate/vote only. Users below the Web Master (current Level of Authorization) can read all content, comment on the material via bulletin boards and vote on Ideas but do not have the ability to submit Ideas or Questions and attachments.

On page 79 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 23 and ending on page 80 on the line numbered 7 with the following paragraph:

A13

Level 0 requires no ID. Users can cloak their identities by having the system show no identification for each entry. This creates a true impartial rating/voting system, in that ideas cannot be identified as belonging to the same User Alias, or to the same User ID. Thus, experience level, seniority, position, gender, etc. become truly irrelevant to the Idea rating/voting process. The Leaders can however elect to have the lack of identity expire after a certain time period (after the feedback cycle is complete) to reveal the true ID of the contributor. Access to the User's Profile will be disabled.

On page 84 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 23 and ending on page 85 on the line numbered 7 with the following paragraph:

A14 Cont

Clicking on Set User Access Levels Link 6408 returns Headings Access Level Summary Page 6900 as shown in FIG. 69. Access Level Definitions Table 6902 shows a brief summary of the current level definitions for the five Input or Access Parameters (Privacy, Screening, Input (Read/Write),

User ID, and Approvals) for all Headings. Default Levels For New Topics Table 6904 shows the current default levels established for the five Parameters. The Web Master can increase levels by clicking on an Up Arrows 6908 or decrease levels by clicking on a Down Arrows 6910. Each click changes the level setting up or down by one level.

On page 85 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 8 and ending on the line numbered 13 with the following paragraph:

Setting Access Levels Table 6906 shows the current levels for the five Parameters for each of the current Headings. This table allows the Web Master to increase levels by clicking on an Up Arrows 6908 or decrease levels by clicking on a Down Arrows 6910. Each click changes the level setting up or down by one level.

On page 85 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 14 and ending on the line numbered 23 with the following paragraph:

Clicking on View Down Arrow 6914 of View Bar 6912 reveals a drop down list (now shown). Clicking on Category Levels from the drop down list returns Category Access Level Summary Page 7000 as shown in FIG. 70. Access Level Definitions Table 7002 shows a brief summary of the current level definitions for the five Input or Access Parameters (Privacy, Screening, Input (Read/Write), User ID, and Approvals) for all Categories. Heading and Leader Table 7004 allows the Web Master to select a Heading in Heading Bar 7006 which populates Allowable Levels Table 7008 for the Heading selected.

On page 85 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 24 and ending on page 86 on the line numbered 11 with the following paragraph:

Clicking on View Down Arrow 6914 of View Bar 6912 reveals a drop down list (now shown). Clicking on Topic Levels from the drop down list returns Topic Access Level Summary Page 7100 as shown in FIG. 71. Access Level Definitions Table 7102

shows a brief summary of the current level definitions for the five Input or Access Parameters (Privacy, Screening, Input (Read/Write), User ID, and Approvals) for all Topics. Topic and Leader Table 7104 allows the Web Master to select a Topic in Topic Bar 7106 which populates Allowable Levels Table 7108 for the Topic selected. Setting Access Levels Table 7110 shows the current levels established for the five Parameters for this topic. The Web Master can increase levels by clicking on an Up Arrows 7112 or decrease levels by clicking on a Down Arrows 7114. Each click changes the level setting up or down by one level.

A17

On page 86 of the specification, replace the paragraph beginning on the line numbered 12 and ending on the line numbered 23 with the following paragraph:

Clicking on Reports On Access Level Activity Link 6410 returns Reports On Access Level Page 7200 as shown in FIG. 72. Clicking on By Down Arrow 7204 of By Bar 7202 reveals a drop down list (not shown) which allows the Web Master to select between Headings, Categories, and Topics. Clicking on View Down Arrow 7208 of View Bar 7206 reveals a drop down list (not shown) which allows the Web Master to select between the five Parameters (Privacy, Screening, Input (Read/Write), User ID, and Approvals). Making these two selections populates Report Table 7210 with the statistics associated with the two options selected.

A18

In The Drawings:

N.E.

Submitted herewith are Applicant's proposed corrections to FIGS. 3, 6A, 8, 9, and 10, which are shown in red pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §121(d).

In The Claims:

Please add the following new Claims 2-100: